

OPTIONAL EA, FONSI, AND DR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: UT-050-81-42

BLM Office: Sevier Resource Area, Richfield District

Case File No.: UT-056-2P

Proposed Action Title/Type #1: Disposal of reject gypsum wall board

Location of Proposed Action: T. 23 S., R. 1 W., Section 5, SLM

Proposed Action Title/Type #2: Clarification of T & E Species

Location of Proposed Action: T. 22 and 23 S., R. 1 W., SLM

Applicant (if any): Georgia-Pacific Corporation

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan:

Name of Plan: Mountain Valley MFP

Date Approved: 1981

This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Remarks: This action is in conformance with the existing land use plan.

Need for proposed action:

The proposed action is needed to allow Georgia-Pacific Corporation to dispose of gypsum wallboard that is not salable due to physical defects in the material. Georgia-Pacific operates a gypsum mine on several unpatented mining claims in the vicinity.

Description of Proposed Action:

On May 21, 1990, Sevier River Resource Area received a request to modify Georgia-Pacific Corporation's Plan of Operations (UT-056-2P). This modification would allow disposal of reject wallboard on an unpatented mining claim in T. 23 S., R. 1 W., Section 5 SE1/4NE1/4, SLM, in Sevier County, Utah. (See Attachment 1.) The mining claim is Western No. 17 (UMC 53599). This action was noted during a BLM compliance inspection in December, 1989, and the case record indicated no written authorization had been granted to the company by the authorized officer. The BLM inspector informed the company that this disposal is not authorized, and that authorization must be obtained by approval of a modification to their Plan of Operations. Georgia-Pacific employees have stated that, historically, this site has been used to dispose of wallboard.

perennial vegetation.

The disposal site would not have any vegetation for wildlife until the site is reclaimed. After the site is reclaimed, wildlife should be able to re-occupy the site.

No impacts would occur to cultural resources. If a cultural resource is encountered during the operation, Federal regulations (43 CFR 3809.2-2(e) require the operator to cease operations and to notify the BLM.

Allowing the company to dispose of the reject material on this site allows for a more economic mining operation. The alternative would be to haul the material to a patented mining claim block several miles to the north. This action would require the company to haul a load to this site, then the haul truck would return empty. Round trip haul time is over an hour for this trip to the patented mining claims. The disposal site that the company prefers to use when mining on the unpatented mining claims is en route to the active quarry and does not require an empty haul truck. The company is an important employer in the Sevier Valley and to introduce an economic factor could influence the life of the mining operation in the Sigurd area.

The proposed action would not impact any wilderness resource values, and the Visual Resource Management is Class IV, which would not be altered by the proposed action.

The disposal does not include any hazardous material. (See Attachment 4.) Federal regulations, 43 CFR 3809.2.2(c) permit disposal of solid waste on affected lands if treated to minimize, so far as is practicable, any impacts.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:

1. The company shall obtain permitting from the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, and Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Wastes.
2. Only reject gypsum wallboard and related gypsum materials shall be disposed at the disposal site. All other litter, waste, and debris shall be disposed at an approved landfill as required in the approval of the original Plan of Operations.
3. Existing stream drainages shall not be obstructed during the active life of the disposal site. Staff of the BLM and DOGM shall be consulted prior to and during reclamation of the disposal site to ensure proper stream drainage and runoff.
4. For final reclamation, the disposal site shall be recontoured to a slope of 3:1 or less for placement of overburden and/or subsoil cover and to facilitate plant

Wallboard produced at Georgia-Pacific's Sigurd Plant that is not suitable for sale due to physical defects is hauled by haul trucks to the above disposal site. The haul trucks dispose of the material at the edge of the site, and the material is left at angle of repose. Approximately eight to fifteen 15-ton loads are hauled to the site per week. The company estimates that 20,000 tons has been disposed to date and that the surface disturbance encompasses approximately 1.5 acres. The present disturbed area measures approximately 335 feet by 180 feet. (See Attachment 2.)

The reject gypsum wall board is produced through the milling of gypsum rock that is mined from unpatented mining claims located in the vicinity of Sigurd, Utah. The composition of the material that is disposed is: gypsum (93%), paper (6%), and other material (1%). The other includes starch, lignosite, potash, and boric acid. Some specialty board also contains kaolin (2%), vermiculite (1%), and minor fiberglass and silicone emulsion.

The company proposes to continue disposing of reject material on this site. Approximately an additional one-quarter acre will be disturbed each year with an advance of 50-60 feet per year.

To reclaim the site, the company proposes to grade the disposal site to ensure proper run-off of precipitation. Overburden will be used to cover the reject material to a depth of at least one foot, then seeded.

In the original Plan of Operations, Townsendia aprica was identified as a sensitive plant species, and the company was directed to consult with the BLM before mining in specific locations. This species that occurs on the mining claims has been re-identified as T. jonseii var. lutea, which is not a threatened nor endangered species currently. (See Attachment 3.) Thus, the company does not need to consult with the BLM with regards to Townsendia species located on the mining claims.

Environmental Impacts:

See attached form for critical elements.

Description of Impacts:

The topography of the disposal site would be permanently altered. The slope of the terrain after grading and re-seeding would be unnatural even after the reestablishment of

establishment. Overburden and/or subsoil shall be respread over the site to a depth of 18 inches.

5. Revegetation of disturbed areas shall be accomplished with the following seed mix:

<u>Crested Wheatgrass</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Indian Ricegrass</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Rabbitbrush</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Big Sagebrush</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Fourwing Saltbrush</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Shadscale</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Streambank Wheatgrass</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Western Wheatgrass</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Sand Dropseed</u>	<u>3</u>

23 lbs/acre (Pure Live Seed)

The seed will be range drilled to a depth not to exceed one-half inch. In areas where drill seeding is not practical, the seed shall be broadcast and dragged by appropriate means to effectively cover the seed. All seed shall be furnished by Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

Persons/Agencies Consulted:

Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Division Oil, Gas, and Mining, State of Utah
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Preparer/s: Michael Jackson *mdj*

Date: July 30, 1990